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THE CONDOR.

Bulletin of the

COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB OF CALIFORNIA.

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and as Official Organ of the Club.

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This issue of The Condor was mailed Nov. 16.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The A. O. U. We learn from an excellent editorial in *Bird-Lore* for October that the American Ornithologists' Union Congress and a conference of representatives of the Audubon Societies will meet simultaneously in Cambridge, Mass. about Nov. 12, the idea being to promote a closer unity between the two associations, such as should exist between the parent and pupil, the editorial pointing out that the Audubon Societies' object is "to arouse interest in the study of birds, in short to make ornithologists," while "it is the province of the A. O. U. to enroll them in its membership, after the school day period has passed, and sustain their interest . . . which comes from association with others having kindred tastes." All of which will meet the approval of ornithologists generally.

The editorial mentioned quotes from Mr. McGregor's communication in the July-August CONDOR (p. 93) in which Mr. McGregor suggests the separation into two classes, of the associate membership of the A. O. U., one to include *bona fide* amateur ornithologists, the other to take in those who have affiliated themselves with the Union as merely a step of progression, with no thought of engaging in technical work. *Bird-Lore* commends the idea, but at the same time counsels fairness of opinion between the technical ornithologists and the purely Audubonian membership.

We believe frankly that such adverse feeling as may exist between these more or less widely divergent branches of the associate membership of the A. O. U.,—be it either imaginary or *de facto* is due as much to the uncompromising

spirit of many of the Audubonians as to that of the active bird men. For several years past Coast ornithologists at least, have viewed the Audubonians as a class unalterably opposed to the killing of birds. This sentiment cropped out strongly when Dr. Coues edited the memorable *Osprey*, at which time general condemnation was heaped upon those writers who mentioned "takes" of either birds or eggs in their articles.

The condemnation was justified in a few cases, but the circumstance impressed many as being a campaign of opera glass vs. gun, with judgment and fairness omitted. Thus we believe that the 'amateur ornithological' class have dealt as kindly as they have been dealt with. It must be considered that in the West, especially, the taking of birds is a necessity to work out the various geographical variations, and the occasions arise for the collecting of a much greater number of birds than might be deemed justifiable in the East. Those on the ground must perforce judge of these conditions.

Should the associate membership of the A. O. U. eventually be divided into two classes as suggested, it is highly desirable that harmony prevail, but it is unreasonable to hint that the fault lies more with the technical ornithologists than elsewhere. Both classes are doing good work but differ as to method, and the "mutual respect" suggested by *Bird-Lore* can come about only by each class being allowed its proper freedom. The separation of the A. O. U. associate membership into two classes, as primarily suggested by Mr. McGregor, seems more or less certain to be brought about in the near future. *Bird-Lore* suggests that a class of "senior associates" limited to 100, be created. This would probably be sufficient and we shall hope to see such action taken.

Cooper For a long time it has been an
Club's acknowledged fact that California
Bird has not possessed protective bird
laws, aside from its game laws, worthy
Bill the name. At present a few laws
grace the statute books intended to protect a
limited category of birds, which are designated
in a very general way as English skylarks, orioles, wild canaries, cranes (meaning herons) etc. It seems very doubtful if such a law would hold in a test case and little or no effort has been made to enforce it.

Accordingly the necessity and advisability for more stringent protective laws have arisen and it seems not inappropriate that the fight should be taken up by the Cooper Ornithological Club, since its efforts are and have been closely allied with the progress of ornithology in the State in recent years. This course has therefore been decided upon, and the sweeping bird protection bill which Senator E. K. Taylor will champion in the State Legislature in January, is to be given final consideration at the November meetings of both divisions of the Club.

The bill will then have been perfected, as viewed from any reasonable standpoint, and the concerted action of the Club's membership will be called into play in the matter of urging favorable action upon the part of the various

county representatives. The action of the Cooper Ornithological Club will receive the support of the League of American Sportsmen, an organization ever ready to wield its influence for the enactment of protective laws.

A clause prohibiting the indiscriminate use of poison by orchardists as a means of destroying noxious birds, the necessity of which is pointed out by Mr. Daggett's communication in this issue, will become a part of the bill, and every reasonable concession will be granted the agriculturist who can show that he suffers material damage from any certain bird species.

Many a meritorious movement has gone down to defeat and many a good fight has been fought for principle without direct result, but the proposed bill has been prepared in good faith and no stone will be left unturned to secure its passage. With such an earnest advocate behind it as Senator Taylor, it is reasonable to confidently anticipate the successful passage of the bill, and the text as finally prepared, will be given space in the January CONDOR.

With this issue THE CONDOR closes its second volume with the feeling that congratulations are in order both upon the part of the management and of its subscribers. It scarcely seems that we have occupied the field for two full years, but such is the case. Volume I was accorded a generous reception by the fraternity and Volume II has exceeded it in size and also in the point of its illustrations. It has been found that twenty-four pages was the very smallest size in which the magazine could be gotten out in justice to western ornithology, and accordingly this has become the standard size of THE CONDOR.

With the realization that this journal afforded a prompt means of publication, western workers have patronized it freely, and it has served as the channel through which have flowed the most interesting and valuable productions of Californian and western ornithologists. We believe that the journal has firmly established itself among ornithologists who appreciate the fact that THE CONDOR is the exponent of a live Club of over 100 members, with solid backing.

The editors feel that it is unnecessary to indulge in promises for the third volume of the magazine, for its subscribers have taken its measure and know reasonably well what to expect. The continued support of old patrons is solicited, and those who have not known the magazine are invited to enroll themselves as subscribers. With the closing of the year, the editors desire to return thanks to many members of the Club as well as outsiders who have assisted in the work of making THE CONDOR a success.

An index for Volume II will be mailed with the January issue, Mr. McGregor having kindly consented to perform the office of indexer, which he did in such excellent form for Volume I. Subscribers whose subscriptions expire with this issue will be understood as wishing the magazine continued, unless notice is mailed the publishers to the contrary.

The announcement made in THE CONDOR during the latter part of 1899 that the Club would begin the publication of a series of special papers, separate and apart from THE CONDOR, has reached its fulfillment in the appearance of Mr. Joseph Grinnell's *Birds of the Kotzebue Sound Region, Alaska*. As was announced at the time, THE CONDOR in its regular course of publication has not been able to do entire justice to the volume of material which has been submitted, with the result that the Club has found it necessary to expand in order to meet the conditions which confront it.

The title of *Pacific Coast Avifauna* has been selected under which to publish these separate papers, and the Club may well congratulate itself that the series is inaugurated with such an excellent paper as the present one by Mr. Grinnell. Several other papers intended for the series are in process, and with the extended and careful work which is being done on the coast, it is certain that the *Pacific Coast Avifauna* will be possessed of no uncertain value to ornithologists.

THE CONDOR, it is believed, enjoys the distinction of presenting the first published photographs of the nesting site and the egg *in situ* of the California Condor, the photographs accompanying Mr. Gedney's article in this issue having, by good fortune, been secured at a nesting site which was accessible to the collector, and which permitted the use of the camera. Mr. Gedney is to be congratulated upon his novel photographs, while this magazine once more modestly asserts its claim of publishing the latest and freshest bird news in the West.



Donald A. Cohen is the author of a series of "bird talks" in the Alameda *Argus*, each chapter having the true bird protection ring. All such writings help to mould public sentiment in favor of the birds, and every ornithologist can do a good work by contributing to his local paper along this line.

John O. Snyder of Stanford University has returned with Dr. David Starr Jordan from an expedition into Japanese waters, where an extensive collection of fishes was made for the University. Mr. Snyder also made some interesting observations on the birds met on the trip and of which we hope to hear later.

On Oct. 2 Mr. Charles A. Keeler delivered an address before the Section of Ornithology of the Academy of Sciences entitled "A Popular Talk on Birds."

Ralph Arnold of Stanford University has recently completed the work of mapping the Black Mountain region for the U. S. Geological Survey.

J. F. Illingworth, formerly of Claremont, Cal. is enrolled at Stanford University and is incidentally doing some bird work.